

HELP WANTED AND SITUATIONS WANTED

Twenty Words for Ten Cents.

For Another's Sin.

BY PARKIN, THE BUTLER.
Sir Mortimer Bartleman was an old man, one of the old types of English aristocracy, imperious and abominably proud of the integrity of his name and ancestry. At the time I went into his employ, years ago now, he was living alone with his only daughter at his family seat in Gloucestershire.

A strange looking, tall lady was Miss Linda Bartleman, with large, black eyes, and pale, hard-set features, bearing the traces of some inward sorrow.

Sir Mortimer was married, had had a son, whom he had disinherited and divorced, owing to some act which had brought disrepute on the name of Bartleman, and he forbade all mention of the progeny of the family.

The young man, shabbily dressed, with a recklessness about him, face set, stood on the doorstep and scanned me nervously as I looked questioningly at him.

"Is my—sir Mortimer Bartleman disengaged?" he asked, huskily.

"Yes, sir," I answered. "Will you please come in?"

"Then show me in and tell your master I must see him."

"Very well, sir. What name shall I give?"

"Oh, never mind the name! He'll know me fast enough," he added, bitterly.

Sir Mortimer looked up in a surprised way when I communicated to him that a visitor had arrived and wished to see him. He opened the door and strode into the room.

"Father!"

That was all. One short, despairing cry, and father and son stood face to face once more.

A gray, drawn look stole over my master's face, as for a brief moment he stood eying the prodigal who had so mysteriously appeared. Then he found his tongue.

"So it is you, you hound!" he said. "I have been passing on to the right in turned. You are a stranger to me," he said, after a brief pause, but your face looks like an honest one. If you can contrive to meet me tomorrow about this time, at the office, it is a matter of life and death."

Then, the morning after breakfast Sir Mortimer turned to me and said:

"If you value your situation here, Parkin, you will bear this in mind. Not a word of what you say and heard last night, and never mention my—my son's name to the maid or any other person."

He then turned to me and said:

"If you value your situation here, Parkin, you will bear this in mind. Not a word of what you say and heard last night, and never mention my—my son's name to the maid or any other person."

It was with some feeling of trepidation that I repaired to the typewriting place that same evening to await the arrival of the distinguished son. Having inspired my name, he began:

"You must first know how I came to be in this place. Some years ago a forged check in my father's name was discovered. His pocket on one fell upon me, and though innocent, I was at once branded as guilty by my father. I did not wish to have the family name dragged into court, so I took the easier course of discrediting me and casting me off entirely. My enemy, who ever he was—and Heaven knows I thought I had none worth speaking of—had done his work well. I became a frequent of the turf, a gambler, and nearly—but thank Heaven, not quite—a thief. I was tempted some weeks ago to join a band of robbers who contemplated robbing my father's house. But though I had sunk low, I was not quite bad enough for that, and, overcome with remorse, I determined to seek an audience with my father and warn him of his danger. The result of that interview you know, and—"

He broke off abruptly, a queer break in his voice.

I will pass over the rest of our conversation and merely state the plan which the remorse stricken man had formed to checkmate the robbers.

I must explain that at the back of the house was a courtyard, shut in on three sides by the kitchen premises of the house. It was a small white-washed sort of the pony-tray which was to be the mode of ingress. Young Mr. Geoffrey—that was the son's name—was to lead the burglars in their enterprise. He had conducted them through the kitchen, and with the aid of myself and Sister, whom I was to apprise of the robbers' advent, would help to overtake the others, two desperados, for they had not wished to have too many concerned in the job.

Friday came, and it was, I am bound to confess, with no slight feelings of apprehension, that I looked forward to the work which was before me, for I was no fighting man. Of course, I had not mentioned the meditated robbery to the old baronet, for that would have spoiled everything.

At 12 o'clock I loitered slowly down to the kitchen and quietly waited till the burglars should arrive. I had not long to wait. I heard the muffled sound, which warned me that they had commenced operations, and slipping away as noiselessly as I had come, I departed to apprise my master of the outrage on his property.

I found him sitting in his bedroom on a chair, clad in his dressing gown and slippers. His face was buried in his hands, and he was evidently lost in thought. At my entrance he started violently up and gazed with wonderment, not unmixed with anger, at me, as I intruded myself on his solitude. I at once came to the point.

"Sir," I said, "there are burglars trying to force an entrance at the back."

Now, my master's bedroom was at the extreme end of the building, so that had it not been for the fact that I already knew of the contemplated robbery, I would probably have heard nothing of the burglars, taking for granted that they succeeded in reaching the dining room, where the family plates—

their object—was secured.

I had only kept my presence of mind and carried out my instructions the burglar's hands might have been stayed, and Sir Geoffrey would not have been shot.

But, perchance, Miss Linda would not have conceived, Thank Heaven, there are not many women like her in the world—Chicago News.

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